

- (d) based upon recoveries of 52,000 barrels of oil per well, the deletion of the salt protection casing string increases applicant's rate of return by approximately 15 percent to acceptable levels; and directly affects the economic viability of drilling these wells;
- (e) the deletion of the salt protection casing string significantly improves the economic viability of drilling these wells which will result in the recovery of oil that might otherwise be lost or subject to drainage;
- (f) deletion of the salt protection casing string will provide the applicant with the same opportunity as the offsetting operators who have not been required to pay the costs of salt protection casing strings in their wells thereby protecting applicant's correlative rights.

(16) Applicant's potash expert, who utilized publicly available potash core data, ore grade information, BLM Potash Data, and potash economic information, presented evidence which indicates that:

- (a) the vast majority of Section 9 is within an area defined by BLM as being "barren" of commercial potash;
- (b) the proposed "excepted area" within Sections 10 and 16 is within an area defined by BLM to contain commercial potash reserves within the 10th Potash Zone;
- (c) the proposed "excepted area" is not located within an LMR or within 1/4 mile of any LMR;
- (d) the proposed "excepted area" is located approximately 4.5 miles from an area which has been mined in the past and approximately 9 miles from active potash mine workings;